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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God of infinite goodness, today empower our Senators to use their time, understanding, and talents to do what You desire. May this passion to serve You guide their thoughts, words, and work. Grant that they may not be too much lost in regret for the past but instead inspire them to do with their might the task which lies in their hands. Lord, strengthen them to fight the good fight, to finish the race, and to keep the faith. At the end of their journey, reward their faithfulness with a crown of righteousness and the harvest of work well done.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator

from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business for 1 hour. Senators will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each at that time. Republicans will control the first 30 minutes and the majority will control the second 30 minutes.

Upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message on H.R. 4213, the tax extenders legislation. There will be up to 5 minutes for debate on the Baucus amendment, with the time equally divided and controlled between Senators BAUCUS and GRASSLEY or their designees. The Senate will then proceed to vote on the motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to the Baucus amendment. Senators should expect additional votes this afternoon in relation to amendments to the tax extenders bill. Senators will be notified when any additional votes are scheduled.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

NEEDING PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, last night the President provided more detail on his administration's efforts to stop the oilspill in the gulf. If implemented successfully, some of what he said was encouraging. However, I wish the President would have used this opportunity to focus entirely on stopping the spill and to cleaning it up instead of using this crisis as an opportunity to push for a new national energy tax.

The immediate issue here is a broken pipe that has been spewing hundreds of thousands of gallons of oil a day into the ocean for more than 8 weeks. The fact that the White House wants to use this crisis as an excuse to push more of its legislative agenda on the American people—with the same kinds of arguments it used to push health care—is really nothing short of startling.

During the health care debate, Americans were told we couldn't afford to put off the administration's vision of government-driven reform. Health care costs were rising so quickly, the President said, that inaction was not an option. We heard the same thing last night. It is a recurring theme out of this White House.

In the middle of a jobs crisis, Americans were told they needed to spend nearly \$1 trillion on longstanding Democratic priorities that Democrats called a stimulus bill. They passed it, and we lost another 3 million jobs.

Out-of-control health care costs are pricing people out of the market and threatening to bankrupt government, so they passed a massive government-driven health care bill that promises to send health care costs even higher than they already are.

Our financial crisis was caused in large part by recklessness at government-sponsored entities such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and their solution to that crisis was to pass a massive government intrusion into Main Street without even addressing Fannie or Freddie.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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